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CHILL SEEKERS

A grassy slope, a block of ice and wow!

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RANCHO-GATE

ASG President Chris Roberts facing impeachment.

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RUSTLED-UP

Men's basketball smokes Golden West 79 - 64.

RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE*el Don*

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Friday, February 2, 1996

Lying scandal rocks ASG leaders**▼ Chief Justice alleges cover-up by president**

By Chris Ceballos
el Don Editor in Chief

An anonymous tip left in the Supreme Court's mailbox over winter recess triggered a vote of no confidence, two resignations by executive cabinet members and the

possible impeachment of the associated student government president.

The tip was written on a copy of ASG President Chris Robert's student records; listing his home address in the city of Orange. The record contained confidential information which was illegally obtained, according to Roberts.

The tip read, "This is not his address. He lives in Long Beach. Ask Christine (Villegas, executive cabinet secretary) and Amber (Hannigan, Orange Campus vice president)."

According to the ASGRSC constitution, the president must be a resident of the Rancho Santiago Community College District. The city of Long Beach does not fall within the district.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Ramiro Orozco questioned the Roberts, Hannigan, and Villegas at the Jan. 17 cabinet meeting. Orozco cautioned them against lying. "I would consider this worse than lying to an instructor," he said.

When both Roberts and Hannigan said that Roberts lived in Orange, Villegas called for a five minute

recess.

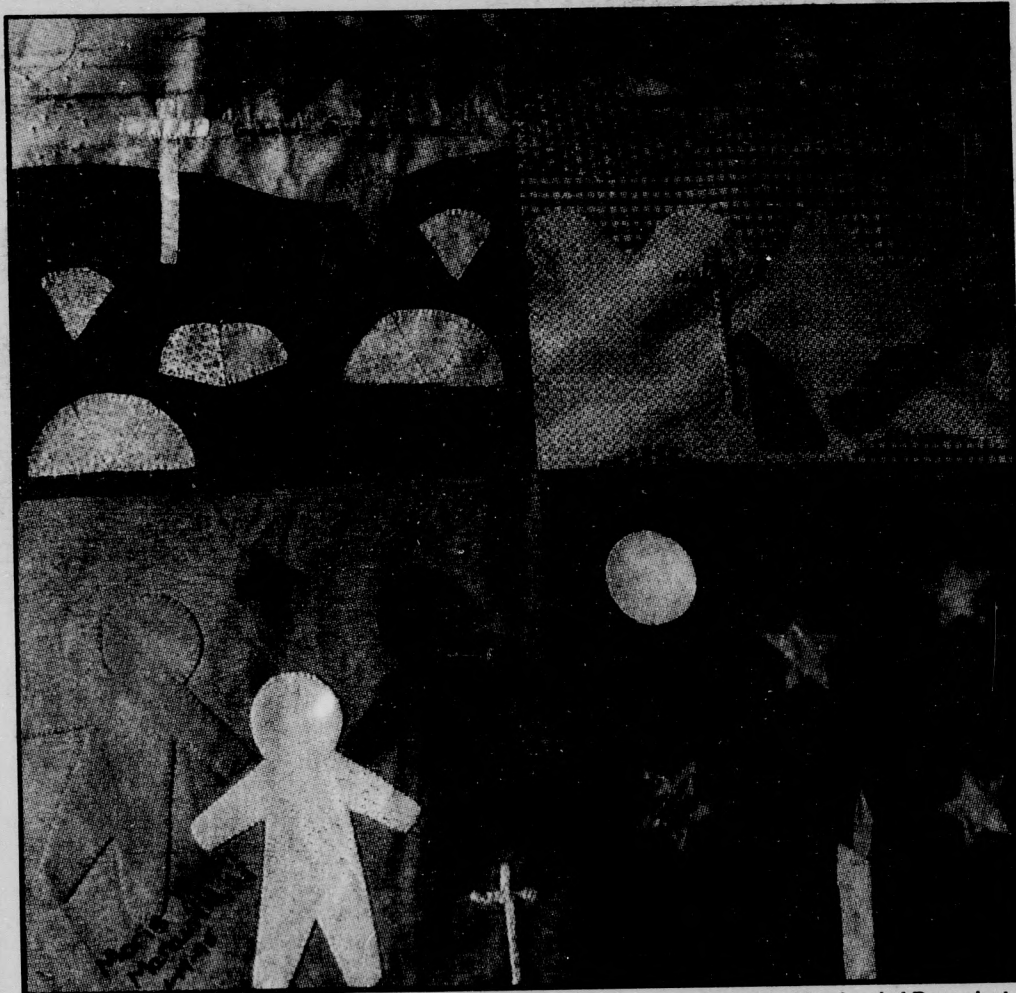
"I felt like I was being put in a precarious position by people that I worked with that are also my friends," Villegas said after the meeting. "I wanted to let Chris know how I was going to answer."

When the meeting resumed, Villegas said that she believed Roberts lived in Long Beach.

Orozco then called for the conditional resignation of Roberts. If Roberts refused to the conditions, Orozco requested the Senate to begin the impeachment process. **Please see CHARGES, page 2**



Henry Gee, Dean of Student Affairs clarifies a point



Amando Mugica / el Don photo

Memorial Quilt: A River of Tears

Each handmade square represents a Santa Ana murder victim from 1995

By Jennifer Okamoto
el Don Staff Writer

Although homicides in local cities did not increase last year, their impact on the public must be considered. In Santa Ana, 75 people were killed - more than double than that of Anaheim, ranked second in the number of homicides.

But these numbers are more than statistics - they are people in our own neighborhoods. Among those killed in Santa Ana were three newborn babies and 26 teenagers. Some of the murderers themselves were teenagers, making people wonder if the youth of today values life like their parents once did.

However, people are starting to realize the need to deal with these problems in the community. Los Amigos of Orange County, a group of various Latino leaders and many others, have met together each Wednesday for the last 17 years to deal with the violence in our local cities. The group discusses the effects of violence concerning the community and the challenges faced here in Orange County.

Among the groups' ideas was a candlelight vigil, started last year. Longtime member Frank Castillo considered the vigil a gesture of respect for the gift of life. One night each week, the group, whether there were three or 50 people, would stand and pray at the sites where each victim fell.

Please see QUILT, page 3

Celebrating The Year Of The Rat

Sponsored by the Union of Vietnamese Students Association of Southern California for the 14th consecutive year, the 1996 Tet Festival will be hosted at the Santa Ana Campus on Feb. 16, 17, 18, where an estimated 80,000 people, over the three day event, will celebrate the Year of the Rat.

This is the most important

More Than 80,000 Expected At Rancho For Annual Tet Festival

By Elvira Weigold

holiday of the year for Vietnamese and Chinese. "Tet incorporates the Western tradition of Thanksgiving, the spirit of Christmas, and the excitement of New Year," describes Khanh Hoang, the Chairman of the

Committee organizing the event.

Nga Pham, Coordinator of Community Relations elaborates on Hoang's description by adding, "It's like that but add your birthday. It's a celebration of the family. In

Vietnam, Tet lasts for days, businesses close, and nobody works. All they do is eat, cook, and talk." Children are showered with gifts and money, elders with wine and sweets, all are wrapped in brilliant

red symbolizing good luck for the New Year.

In dedication to building a bridge between generations, the UVSA chose "Youth of Today and Tomorrow" as the theme for the festival. "In our culture we tend to ignore the reality and focus on success. We want them to know that we are here for them," said Hoang.

Please see TET, page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

□ NATION

PIZZA: THE HEALTHY CHOICE

MASSACHUSETTS- Looking for excuse to call pizza a health food? A Harvard University study has found that pizza and spaghetti sauce can protect against prostate cancer.

The 10-page study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, examined 47,000 men over six years and found that those who had a least 10 servings a week of tomato-based foods were up to 45 percent less likely to develop prostate cancer.

"We found more was better," Dr. Edward L. Giovannucci of the Harvard School of Public Health told The Harvard Crimson. He said men whose intake was four to seven servings of the tomato-based food had a 20 percent reduction in the rate of prostate cancer. However, he added, the study isn't a license to overdose on the cheese pie.

□ STATE

USEFUL TOOL OR ANOTHER OBSESSION?

More than 24 million people 16 or older use the Internet, according to a telephone survey of 4,200 Americans and Canadians by the Nielsen Media Research company.

Why do so many people turn to the Internet? Many students use it to read their electronic mail, log onto bulletin board services, chat lines or to cruise around many World Wide Web sites.

Is it a way to relieve stress or has it turned into the newest addiction? Some students find themselves caught in the net for hours on end and stuck with enormous bills to America Online. If any of these symptoms sound familiar, here are some tips for netaholics from Jane Morgan Bost of the University of Texas in Austin:

- ▼ Keep track of how long you are on.
- ▼ Be clear about when you are working and when you are playing.
- ▼ Use the Internet as a reward.
- ▼ Admit when you need help.

□ CAMPUS

FEBRUARY IS CULTURE PACKED

The Black Student Union has made February into a forum to introduce the school to black history. The activities will be on the Santa Ana Campus, except for the parade and cultural fair at Eddie West Field on Saturday 3 at 10:00 a.m. The next event is the film festival on Monday 5 at 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the game room. The Vietnamese Tet festival is leaving Golden West College and coming to Santa Ana on February 17-18. They are celebrating the year of the Rat with a fair, traditional entertainment, and information booths.

□ CAMPUS

ORANGE CAMPUS DELIVERS LOVE FOR A DIME

Senate members will be playing cupid this Valentine's Day. Feb. 5, 6 and 7, students at the Orange Campus can write special messages and have them delivered with a carnation on Feb. 13 and 14. Tables will be set up in the court yard between the A and B buildings on Monday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students are encouraged to be creative. Cupids may be willing to sing or dance if requested.

□ CAMPUS

FREE FRENCH FOOD

International students will be offering free french cuisine on Wed. Feb. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Orange Campus. The event is titled World Culture Day and will emphasis on France. Carmelita Eustaquio, adviser as well as staff member at the International Student Office, said that the event is to help educate students and introduce them to a new culture. This event is open to all RSC students. Hope to see you there, "Bon appetite!"

-Compiled by el Don News Staff

CHARGES: President will not resign

Continued from Page 1

tions arose regarding Orozco's authority to act, considering that he was the sole member of the Supreme Court. Orozco asked Roberts to "surrender" his driver's license as proof of his true address. Roberts has a Utah driver's license.

"I haven't stayed anywhere for a very long time because I lived with my uncle and then I moved out," Roberts said.

Roberts doesn't know who would leave the anonymous tip. "Somebody has a grudge against me," Roberts said after the meeting. "I try to run our organizations the best I can. You would think they could come and talk to me and not scorn me."

"I didn't want a cover up," Orozco later said. "It's not a personal attack. I've never really worked with the guy. A lot of people have a lot of problems with him. I'm just looking at it from a constitutional point of view."

What is wrong with living outside of the district? "It's in the constitution," Orozco said. "It's just like U.S. Senators, you have to be elected by a district to represent it. You can't just come in from Texas and say 'I'm going to be a Senator from California'."

In a deposition given the following day to Orozco, Villegas testified that she visited Roberts at a place in Long Beach and was introduced to a woman who she assumed was his roommate.

Each time she called Roberts, regarding ASG business, the same woman would take messages in his absence. Villegas contacted Roberts at a Long Beach phone number with a 310 area code, the same number listed in the ASG directory.

Villegas further said that Hannigan allegedly knew of Roberts' Long Beach residence.

At Senate meetings on Jan. 22 and 23, Justin Newman, a freshman Senator from the Orange Campus, read a statement detailing Orozco's violations of the constitution and asked the Senates to take any necessary action if he did not resign his position as chief justice.

Please see VOTE, page 4

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Exchange program working towards intercultural issues

By Anh Nguyen
el Don Staff Writer

All are welcome to attend a workshop planned for March 22 to discuss the possibility of forming an exchange program with the Universidad Tecnologica de Leon in the state of Guanajuato in Mexico.

A team of administrators and the Student Trustee Ann Guevara visited Guanajuato January with open minds and returned with a tentative pledge of cooperation.

If the Board of Trustees approves, Rancho will begin an intercultural exchange program that will open new learning opportunities to the students, said Chancellor Vivian Blevins.

As of four years ago, a college education in Mexico catered to the rich and offered study in professions like law or medicine. Times have changed and higher education is more accessible for students who want further preparation for a career.

Curriculum for the colleges is based on a two year, vocationally oriented model of the French system. The students spend 30 percent of the day learning theory in the classrooms and 70 percent working in the field.

The administration and the students of the Universidad Tecnologica de Leon are eager to expand. Ramon Castillo Gonzalez, the president, said that he wanted to work with RSC now.

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QUALITY 4-YEAR EDUCATION

Three staffers die during winter recess

By Monica Hernandez
el Don Staff Writer

Two staff members and one former staff member from died during the semester break.

Santa Ana Campus Counselor Dr. Clarence Lee, 57, died Dec. 30, 1995, one day before his planned retirement. Lee started his teaching career in 1961, in Merced, Calif., and began teaching at RSC in 1970. From 1978 to 1980 Dr. Lee served as chair of the Black

Studies Department.

"He contributed greatly to the students at RSC, and often gave to others without fanfare or the knowledge of his colleagues," Counselor Dick Bartholomew said.

Orange Campus teacher, Carol Gerachis, 48, died Dec. 31, 1995. A memorial service was held at the Orange Campus in late January.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in Gerachis' name, to the RSC Scholarship Foundation.

Dean Strenger, Vice Chancellor of the Orange Campus said, "She

was absolutely the most student-oriented, dedicated teacher I've known."

Gerachis is survived by her husband, Robert, mother, Ida and sister, Ronie.

Pat Marin, 43, a former student and full-time counseling assistant, died Jan. 19, 1996. A vigil was held for Marin Jan. 22 at the Santa Ana Campus.

Marin was a single parent of three, working her way through college. Marin earned her bachelor's degree at Cal. State

Fullerton and was working on her masters in San Diego.

Lynne Stedman, Dean of Counseling at the Santa Ana Campus said, "This is still really hard for everyone. She was working so hard on her education and we were all pulling for her."

Donations can be sent to the Pat Marin Scholarship Fund, c/o Teresa Mercado-Coto at the Santa Ana Campus, administration building, Community Relations department.

QUILT: Raising public awareness of violent crimes

Continued from Page 1

These vigils sent a specific message to families and friends of the victims: that they are not alone and that others are here to grieve and pray with the families for and end to gang violence.

More recently another member, Jeanne Costales, suggested creating a quilt to remember the victims. This memorial would consist of multiple squares, with each square representing a Santa Ana murder victim from 1995. Each square is handmade as a personal remembrance and plea to end the violence.

As the number of victims grew, so did the quilt. It has become a "River of Tears" so long and heavy that it now takes 15 people to carry it. Some schools have displayed the quilt, which is a strong tool useful for relating to children. Organizations and institutions are encouraged to display the quilt during workshops and programs dealing with violence.

With the informing and educating of the public, especially the children, the existence of violence in our neighborhoods could come to an end. Getting involved in the community, like the group Los Amigos, is a positive step toward ending the growing weight to the River of Tears.

To schedule an exhibit of the quilt, please contact Mel Kernahan at (714) 581-3625.

For information about 1996 Candlelight Vigils and the new memorial project, please call or write to Selinda Lopez, PO Box 2094, Santa Ana, CA 92707. Telephone (714) 540-0597.

TET: celebration focuses on family

Continued from Page 1

One of the many goals of the UVSA, is to support educational and charitable programs in the community. Last year, a portion of the proceeds raised during Tet were awarded as scholarships for Southern California students, as well as sponsoring a tutoring program and a youth summer retreat. In addition, funds were allocated for other charity and non-profit organizations.

The three-day celebration will include festivities such as the Lion and Dragon Dance, Fireworks dis-

play, children's traditional costume contest, an intercollegiate beauty contest, arts and crafts exhibition, over 120 food and game booths, carnival rides, a three hour multicultural event, and many other fun-filled activities.

Hosting the Tet Festival in conjunction with the UVSA, seemed natural to RSC Chancellor Vivian Blevins since Rancho has made a commitment to serve the community. "The Asian Community has been a quiet one so it's easier to ignore, we assume they don't need outreach programs," said Blevins.

During a meeting last summer

with Asian leaders, it was revealed that Asian students were unsatisfied at RSC. "They've been accused of cheating, their language and culture ridiculed," adds Blevins.

Adding to the ethnic studies program is a subset of Vietnamese classes. Although the instructors concentrate on language, cultural and factual information enhances the learning experience.

"We want them to know that this is a safe and receptive place...we want to say you're part of our community and we value you," said Blevins.

Blevins realizes that hosting Tet Festival is a minute part of the overall objective, but nevertheless wanted to take the opportunity to welcome this growing population to RSC.

Tet is for reuniting family and remembering ancestors, it brings out the best in everyone. With its traditional costumes, music, dance, cuisine, and pageantry, Tet epitomizes the Vietnamese Culture.

"Students put their heart and soul into this event," express Hoang as he clenches his fist with passion.

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VOTE: senators to decide president's fate

Continued from Page 2

Newman said that Orozco "made no visible attempt to fill the vacancies on the Supreme Court."

Orozco later said he attempted to recruit three people to the Supreme Court.

Newman said that Orozco failed to "hold a Meeting of the Court within the first four weeks of the fall semester..."

Orozco later said he wasn't appointed until the fifth week.

Newman said that Orozco misused the power of the Supreme Court - since no formal Court exists - to try to restrict the rights and privileges of the president.

No action was taken at the Jan. 17 meeting to force Orozco to resign. Orozco only provided information to Senate members.

Finally, Newman said that Orozco had "not called any meeting of the Supreme Court during the previous (fall) semester."

Henry Gee, dean of student affairs, clarified the point at the Jan. 24 Executive Cabinet Meeting. "Over the past three years the Supreme Court has only met three times," he said.

"It is not uncommon that the Supreme Court is not full," Gee said. "It's really no one's fault."

Gee, who met individually with Roberts, Orozco, and Jennifer Bloomquist, ASG adviser, earlier in the week clarified who was responsible for impeachment procedures.

"According to the constitution that is a Senate matter," Gee said. "Information given to (Orozco) is to be forwarded to the Senate. The

"Too many member of this Government let their personal interest supersede that of our constituency... the student."

Christine Villegas, former ASG executive secretary

Senate conducts a hearing to discuss the resignation of the president."

"If the president chooses not to resign after a two-thirds vote of the Senate, then they can choose to impeach. If a two-thirds vote comes from the Senate, then that goes forward to the judiciary."

With that matter cleared, the cabinet meeting began to debate. Elvia Rubalcava, CalSACC Representative wanted to add a vote-of-no-confidence to the agenda. Despite protest by Roberts, the vote was added to the agenda.

The resolution defined Roberts' failure to fulfill his duties as ASG President. The first three charges called into question his ability to effectively lead the cabinet. The fourth charge questioned his, "enforcement of Judicial decisions and ASGRSC laws and regulations." The question of Roberts' residency was still not resolved.

Before the vote could take place, Roberts appointed a new commissioner of activities to the executive cabinet, Justin Newman. Newman is the same freshman Senator from the Orange Campus who brought charges against Orozco. He would be the only cabinet member to vote against the no-confidence vote.

"I only voted (against the action), because they wouldn't answer my

question," Newman said this week, at the Orange Senate meeting. Newman had asked for clarification of the charges brought against Roberts. Rubalcava told the new commissioner that he couldn't understand because he hadn't worked with Roberts previously.

Roberts passed the gavel to Hannigan for discussion of the vote because she said she had, "nothing to say on the matter."

Members urged the cabinet to consider the students they represented and not their own personal loyalties to the president, or any member of student government.

In a 5-1 decision the cabinet passed the no confidence vote, asking that the Senates consider the violations and proceed with impeachment.

"If this goes to impeachment I will resign," Orozco said before the meeting. When it came time for Orozco to give his report, he resigned. "I'm not resigning because of the accusations (brought against me). I feel that this is a conspiracy inside of the student government."

Orozco apologized to the executive cabinet. "I was going to condemn you for your inactivity,

but after this decision...it's now out of my hands," Orozco said. "Even though this is a bad thing, it's making people accountable for their actions."

Orozco's wasn't the only resignation. An emotional Villegas tried to read her letter of resignation but finally asked the Student Trustee to do so.

"Too many member of this Government let their personal interests supersede that of our constituency...the student," Villegas said. "Student Government is no longer an avenue to 'Let your voice be heard'."

"I feel that I can no longer trust or respect many of the members whom I must work with," Villegas said. She continued by saying that student apathy on campus is not an excuse to act in one's own interest. "It grieves me to walk out of the political arena which I was so eager to leap into but I feel that my personal sanity and faith in this organization have diminished all too greatly."

Villegas also resigned from the positions of Shared Governance Representative to the Student Services Council, California Student Association of Community Colleges Region VIII Secretary, Hearing Examiner for District Safety, Student ID Task Force Student Repre-

sentative, and Registration Task Force Student Representative.

Before resigning Orozco presented the cabinet with evidence of Roberts' real residence, the sworn deposition of Villegas, and a copy of the student directory with Roberts' phone number with the 310 area code. The cabinet did not present this evidence to the Senates this week.

Newman said that Roberts' residency was no longer an issue due to a CalSACC ruling that the president does not have to live within the district.

Assembly bill 1296 requires that, "the non-voting student member of a community college district governing board only be a resident of California, rather than of the district itself."

"But we did not adopt that into the constitution," Rubalcava said. Even if it automatically was adopted to the constitution there still is a matter of Roberts' residency.

"I did not lie," Roberts said in a closed session of the executive cabinet on Wednesday. "I stated that my residence of record is (in the city of Orange), that is not lying."

Roberts called the closed session to hear any grievances from the executive cabinet.

"But where do you lay your head at night?" Rubalcava asked.

Roberts refused to answer the question saying that it did not matter and that it was personal.

The cabinet will hold a joint session of the Senate at the Orange Campus Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. An impeachment vote is tentatively scheduled for Friday Feb. 9.

CHRIS FARLEY

DAVID SPADE



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FEBRUARY 2

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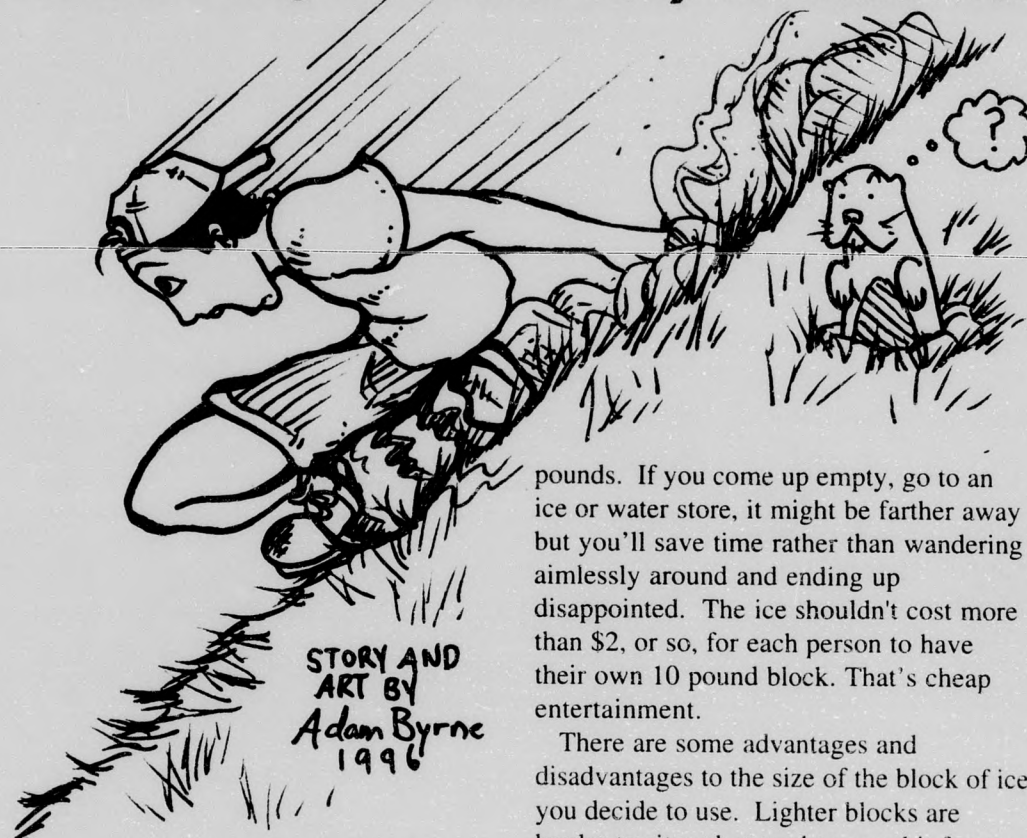
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Iceblocking is a cool way to slide into some serious fun



Adrenaline surging through your body, sharp wind biting at your face, heels chattering against the ground while you travel at the speed of sound down a hillside... Normally, you would guess this to be an exhilarating sled ride, but you would be wrong. A relatively new sport has taken hold with adventurers in Southern California.

Iceblocking, as it's known, involves little more than you, a large block of ice and a steep hill. It's a fast and inexpensive alternative to traditional sledding. It's fairly easy to get started. Find a couple of friends that won't mind getting a little wet and a little cold. Be sure to call around when looking for ice. Most grocery stores carry crushed ice only - that's a no-no. The best bet is to call local liquor stores and ask for large blocks between 10 and 20

pounds. If you come up empty, go to an ice or water store, it might be farther away but you'll save time rather than wandering aimlessly around and ending up disappointed. The ice shouldn't cost more than \$2, or so, for each person to have their own 10 pound block. That's cheap entertainment.

There are some advantages and disadvantages to the size of the block of ice you decide to use. Lighter blocks are harder to sit on but tend to go a bit faster. While the larger blocks may seem more convenient, they are just heavier and you definitely feel it when you're carrying them back up a hill.

An old towel is also a must. I found that the best way to protect yourself from the ice is just to wrap the towel around your waist. Don't lay it on top of the ice itself, because the towel will most likely trap itself underneath the ice when you're sledding and...Wham! Wipe out city! It will take you a couple of runs to get the hang of the balance required for iceblocking but before you know it, you'll be cutting up the slopes.

You might ask, "Where exactly are the slopes I'm supposed to cut up?" Santa Ana is about as flat as Bob Dornan's poll ratings in the New Hampshire primary. A lot of cities nearby have hills to offer.

Finding the slopes only requires a little creativity. Parks and golf courses have the best slopes. A lot of thick grass is also a plus. There's nothing worse than hitting a dry patch of dirt which ultimately sends you flying. So, while zipping down the pavement of a nice hill in the middle of a street might sound like a great idea, those pesky cars can be a nuisance to life and limb, especially when shooting through stop signs and blind intersections. It's best to stick to the lush, green, grassy slopes.

But overall, this sport has brought back the kid in me. Getting into a little mischief that doesn't hurt anybody is the kind of thing we ought to be doing. In today's over-regulated society where skate boards are banned, roller blades are restricted and many of the free thrills that earlier generations had available to them have been eliminated. We need some cheap, mindless entertainment. Until ice-by shootings run rampant, I'll see you on the slopes.



▼Plan Ahead: call and make sure you can get your ice

▼Be sure to bring a towel, they're indispensable

▼Remember: This sport is fun all year round, and not just confined to the winter

▼Have fun for cryin' out loud! Okay? Ya Weenie!

And the Beat goes on...

12 Monkeys Now showing

■Traveling between past and present, Cole played by Bruce Willis struggles to find what could lead to the answer for the apocalyptic doom of his fellow man. Brad Pitt stars as Jeffery Goines, a wacky character Cole first dismisses. With help of Dr. Reilly, portrayed by Madeline Stowe, Cole is able to make his way through the murky insanity he teeters on. The mystery of the 12 Monkeys is presented by Universal Pictures and Atlas/Classico.



Screamers Now showing

■Set on the mining planet of Sirius, Col. Hendrickson, played by Pete Weller is the commander of a handful of soldiers who must fight the self-replicating killing devices he helped create. Betrayed by political leaders, he decides to negotiate peace with the New Economic Block but to do so, he must traverse the Screamer infested wasteland. Screamers manages to touch on the resilient qualities of the human race.



Bed of Roses Now showing

■A classic romance story, Bed of Roses will capture anyone whose ever loved, lost love, and fallen in love all over. This sometimes funny love story stars Christian Slater as Lewis Farrell who falls for Lisa Walker, a workaholic played by Mary Stuart Masterson. Troubled by her lonely past, Lisa runs from the relationship not realizing that her future with Farrell will fill a void. Making a thematic circle, true love finally takes bloom. Presented by New Line Cinema.



Views

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RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE el Don

Friday, February 2, 1995

STAFF EDITORIALS

Don't be fooled, a lie is still a lie

We have certain expectations of our student body president. He should take ultimate responsibility for the workings of government. He should know how to delegate authority. He should communicate well with the other student representatives. But above all, he should be honest.

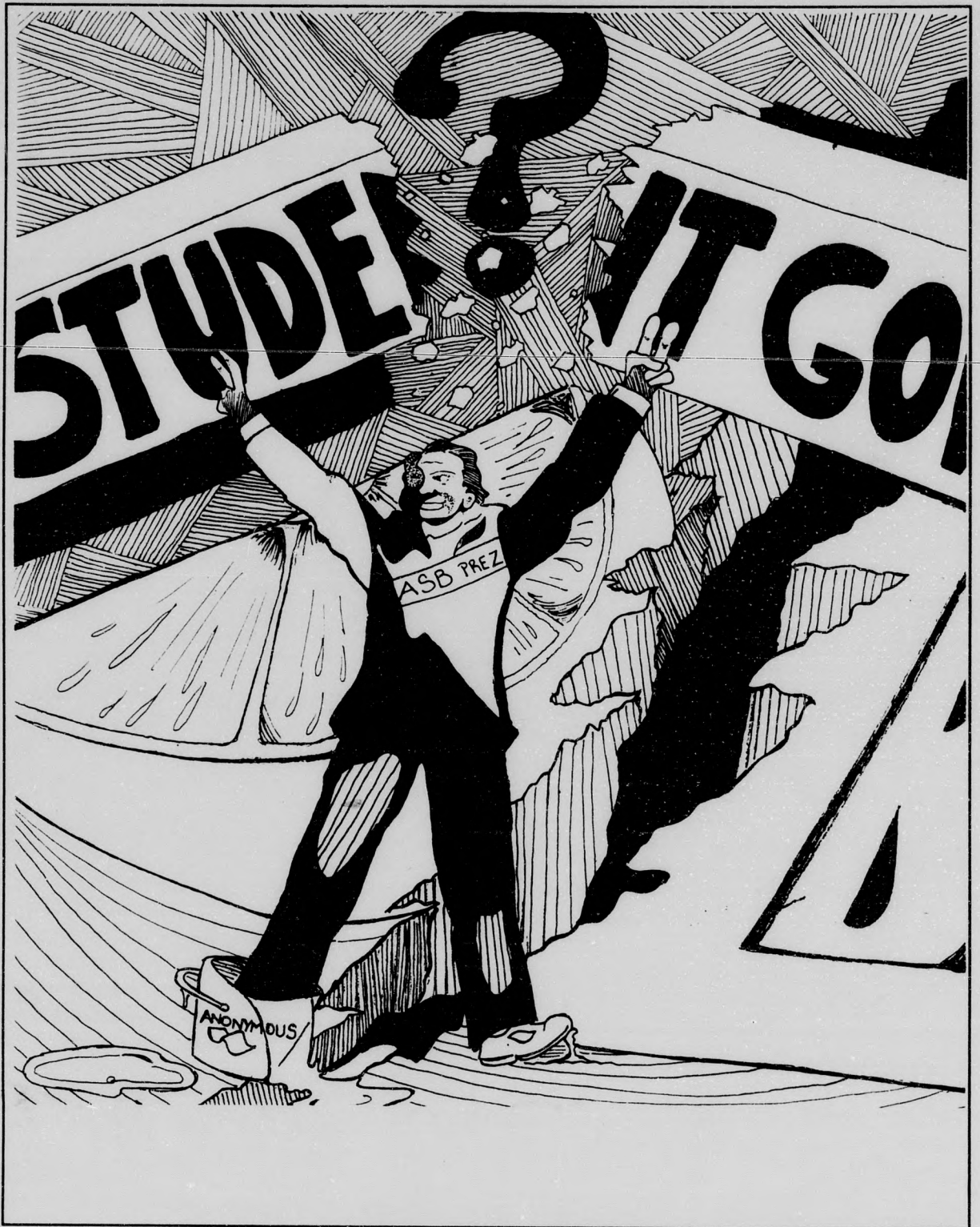
According to the constitution, the president must live within the school district. If he is going to represent the students he should live close enough to the school to be able to participate in student functions.

Associated Student Government President Chris Roberts lied about where he lives. He told the truth when he said that his residence of record was in Orange. That is how it read on his transcript. But when asked by this newspaper if he lived in Long Beach, he said, "No."

Christine Villegas said he lives in Long Beach and his phone number has a Long Beach area code. Villegas may be mistaken, but Roberts refuses to tell anyone where he lives. He says it's a personal matter. But his integrity is on the line. He needs to clarify this matter.

Some people would like to get back to business as usual. They feel an impeachment and special election would cause more harm than good. But how can people work together when they do not trust each other.

The Executive Cabinet approved a vote of no confidence against Roberts. They question his ability to effectively lead the government. They say he isn't present enough on the Santa Ana Campus or concerned about the different aspects of student government. He said he has to work and concentrate on his other classes. If he has over extended himself, then maybe he should step down. If he is lying and will not resign, then he should be impeached.



We don't need more drug addicts

Severe is too subtle an adjective to describe the ramifications should the sale and use of drugs be made legal.

The problems that would evolve from such an act would quickly surpass any we may have now. Drug related crimes, overdoses, "drug babies". An increase in the number of addicts walking the streets could do nothing but harm our society. Those who have never had the means of attaining drugs would become exposed to them. Those who do use them would be given easier access. Those who abstain from buying them for fear of the law would no longer be afraid.

Law is synonymous with consequence. Consequences are the greatest deterrent against the sale and use of drugs. Remove consequence, in this case, and you have pandemonium. It's as simple as that. Make drugs available in every corner liquor store and people are going to be more apt to buy and use them. What will come next? Advertising? Coupons? Could you imagine, "Buy some get some free."

The sale and use of drugs is illegal for a reason. Drugs turn good people into criminals. Criminals need to go to jail.

el Don Mailbox Policy

The el Don encourages expression of all views. Letters should be brief and to the point. All letters should include student ID number and may be edited for length and clarity. Letters to el Don may be delivered to room C-201, or mailed to RSC el Don, Mailbox, 17th at Bristol streets, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Include a phone number where you may be reached.

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Adviser

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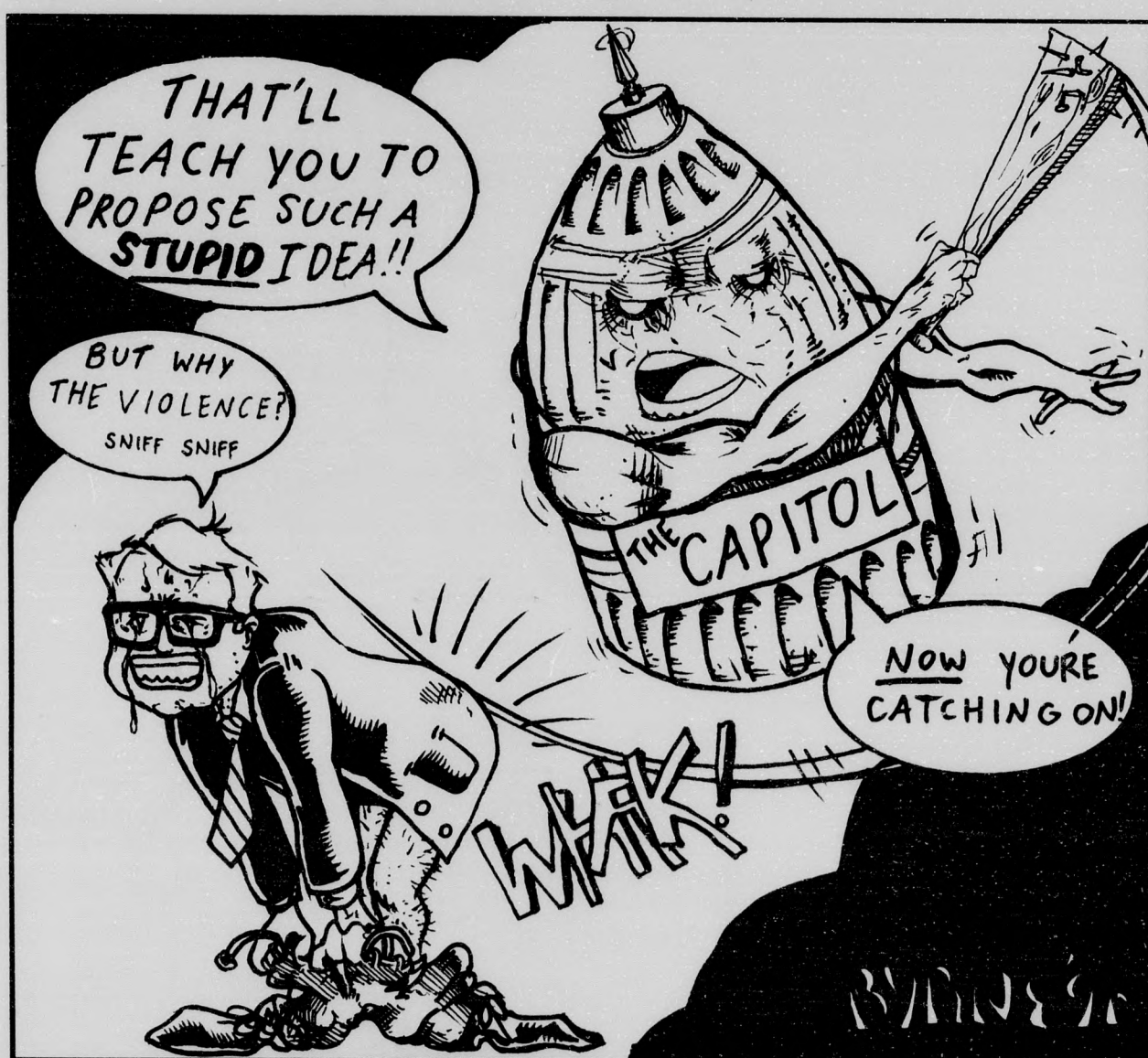
By Holly Mayo
el Don Staff Writer

State Assemblyman Mickey Conroy epitomizes political rhetoric in his attention grabbing sponsorship of a legislative bid to repeal California's decade-old ban on corporal punishment. While decrying bureaucratic involvement through Welfare on the one hand, he supports abdicating parental rights to discipline into the hands of government on the other by allowing schools the right to implement paddling. While some of his colleagues are busy trying to eliminate government funding for school sponsored meals, he is criticizing the lack of discipline in education. Free of double-speak and moralizing, it boils down to saying that it is the sole responsibility of parents to feed their children regardless of their income but they shouldn't have the sole right to discipline them.

Waxing nostalgic and oozing praises for the "good old days" when the rod wasn't spared and therefore children almost certainly weren't spoiled, Conroy calls for a return to down-home family values. He is quoted in the Los Angeles Times (Jan. 28) as saying, "It's straightforward and simple. Let's get back to basics. If you break the law or misbehave in class, you will be punished. Corporal punishment works." The former Marine Corps officer now turned legislator claims it's just a matter of using what works. We'll just fashion the schools into a boot camp for youth and turn out a "few good children" who have learned to behave or suffered the consequences. Who cares if they're nourished and nurtured... that's not the responsibility of the schools. It's the responsibility of educators to mold our progeny into beings capable of following orders and towing the line. I fail to see how this supports the family values he so vociferously espouses when he's not posing with a baseball-bat-sized paddle (and a grin

TURNING The Other CHEEK

Conroy finds little, if any, support for corporeal punishment



to match).

If Mr. Conroy were to pay attention to the studies relative to corporal punishment and corresponding decreases in juvenile misconduct he would find precious little ammunition to fuel his battle. What he would find are studies showing just the opposite. Researchers, from the University of New Hampshire's Family Research Laboratory conducted a four-year study of children exhibiting troublesome behavior in schools. Contrary to the claims that "corporal punishment works," they found that things only worsened for those children whose parents used spanking as a means of discipline in the home. Studies have also argued that such punishment can fuel bitterness, anger and sometimes - in the extreme - headaches, stomach-aches and other stress related physical maladies. In reference again to the confusion of double-speak, studies have also found a double message in paddling, because children have inferred that violence is an acceptable way to solve problems.

I dare say, Mr. Conroy, that you've failed to do your homework. You've ignored evidence of the destructive nature inherent in such strategies, intent only upon reacting to the symptoms of our troubled youth instead of attending to research that speaks to the cause. As our children are bombarded with violence in every area of their environment you would pick up your own stick and join in while parents and educators are calling for an end to such. Instead of seeing our children as enemies upon whom we would wage war of punishment or any other battle, a strategy more conducive to the fostering of wholesome values might be one of mutual nurturing and educating by both government and family. If you insist upon maintaining your current focus, you might do well to take a bit of your own "medicine" and accept the punishment due for unfinished homework and poor planning. Perhaps it would swat some sense into you.

MAILBOX

Beloved teacher falls victim to the ultimate liar, severe depression

On New Year's Eve this past year, a close friend of mine stood in front of an oncoming train and took her own life. She was afraid she was becoming mentally ill. We now know that she was already mentally ill.

Carol Gerachis was a math professor at Rancho. That was how I met her years ago. I had returned to college at middle age, and Carol was a teacher of the basic college algebra course I was required to take. For us "older women students" who were scared that we could not compete with younger minds, Carol was most supportive and an excellent conveyor of just how those crazy-making signs and symbols worked. But, teacher was only one facet of Carol. She was truly a loving wife, a devoted daughter, a great friend, and a woman of honor, integrity and

truth.

There was also the Carol who was severely depressed, which she hid from her family and friends. Mental illness is still not socially acceptable today. Oh, we understand that it's an illness and we know how help is available for those who have the illness, but those of us actually suffering from severe depression rarely reveal that part of ourselves to anyone. We fear, with some justification, that we will scare away our friends, that our jobs may be lost, that our careers will be ruined, and that even our long-term marriages will break under the strain.

I have lived with severe depression most of my adult life, although it was only a few years ago that I was desperate enough to seek help.

From reading newspapers I thought all I had to do was pop a pill like Prozac and I'd be as good as new. But going through treatment was not easy. Though there is some immediate relief shortly after beginning treatment, finding the right medication and the right dosage can take a year or more of

trial and error. Antidepressants also have side effects, which if bad enough, are treated with even more medication. Some of the antidepressants or supporting medication may actually exacerbate the depression. So not only are we afflicted with a socially unacceptable illness (that we did absolutely nothing to deserve), but we have to be both patient and aware at a time when we are desperate for relief and when we are not capable of thinking clearly.

A little over two years ago I voluntarily spent two weeks in the psychiatric ward of a local hospital because I was suicidal. Ashamed and humiliated, I told a few people, and most of those people were not there for me. I struggled through with the encouragement of my psychiatrist and my therapist and in the following months I got better. I kept my job. Within that year I met and married a wonderful man. I now have plans to return to college next year to prepare for a second career. I have been off all medication for six months and doing extremely well.

At this moment I am extremely grateful to be here so that I can tell Carol's family, that for those of us who experience suicidal depression, the inner pain is excruciating and the desire to terminate that pain is irresistible. Severe depression, left untreated, is a most cunning, insidious sickness. It tricks the victim into believing that the only way to end the pain is to end one's life -- but severe depression is The Ultimate Liar!

And when it has claimed its victim, it lies to the survivors: "Why didn't you know? Why couldn't you tell? How could you not have known? You could have stopped her."

But I assure you, from firsthand experience, we hide our depression very carefully.

I ask you to fight this sickness, especially at this particularly treacherous time of year:

To those of you who are severely depressed, pick up the phone now. Call a friend, your doctor, or your local mental health association and begin the journey back to life. The process can be slow and frustrating but I promise you that

there is an end to the journey. You will know good health and joy.

To those of you who suspect that someone you know is severely depressed - if that person will not listen to you - call their physician or your local mental health association for help and direction. Intrude into the lives of your loved ones. Do it now.

To those of you who have lost a friend or relative to suicidal depression and to those of you who will lose someone this year - it is not your fault. Please attend one of the wonderful support groups for survivors of loved ones who have taken their lives. You will hear the truth in these groups and the pain will lessen as time goes by.

Carol, we do not judge you. Those of us who knew you and your love, your many kindnesses, and your musical laughter, we love you greatly and miss you terribly. 'Your memory is blessed.'

Shalom.
Barbara A. Beringer
Tustin

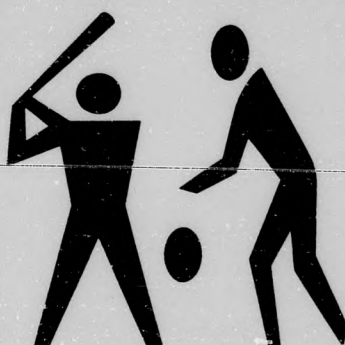
Sports

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RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE el Don

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1996

SCOREBOX



BASKETBALL (MEN)

Wed. Jan. 31 **Next**
RSC 87 **Game:**
Saddleback 89 Fri. Feb. 2
at Irvine
Valley
7:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Wed. Jan. 31 **Next**
RSC 51 **Game:**
Saddleback 110 Fri. Feb. 2
at Irvine
Valley
5:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Next Game:
Fri. - Sat., Feb. 2-3 at
Cerritos - Fullerton
Tournament

GOLF

Next Match:
Fri. Feb. 2
at San Bernardino
at Rancho Verde
10 a.m.

RSC ropes Rustlers 79-64

Dons offense overpowers Golden West in final quarter

By Cliff Mason
el Don Assistant Sports Editor

After a slow start, the Dons captured another conference victory by defeating the Golden West Rustlers 79-64, Friday, at the Cook Gym.

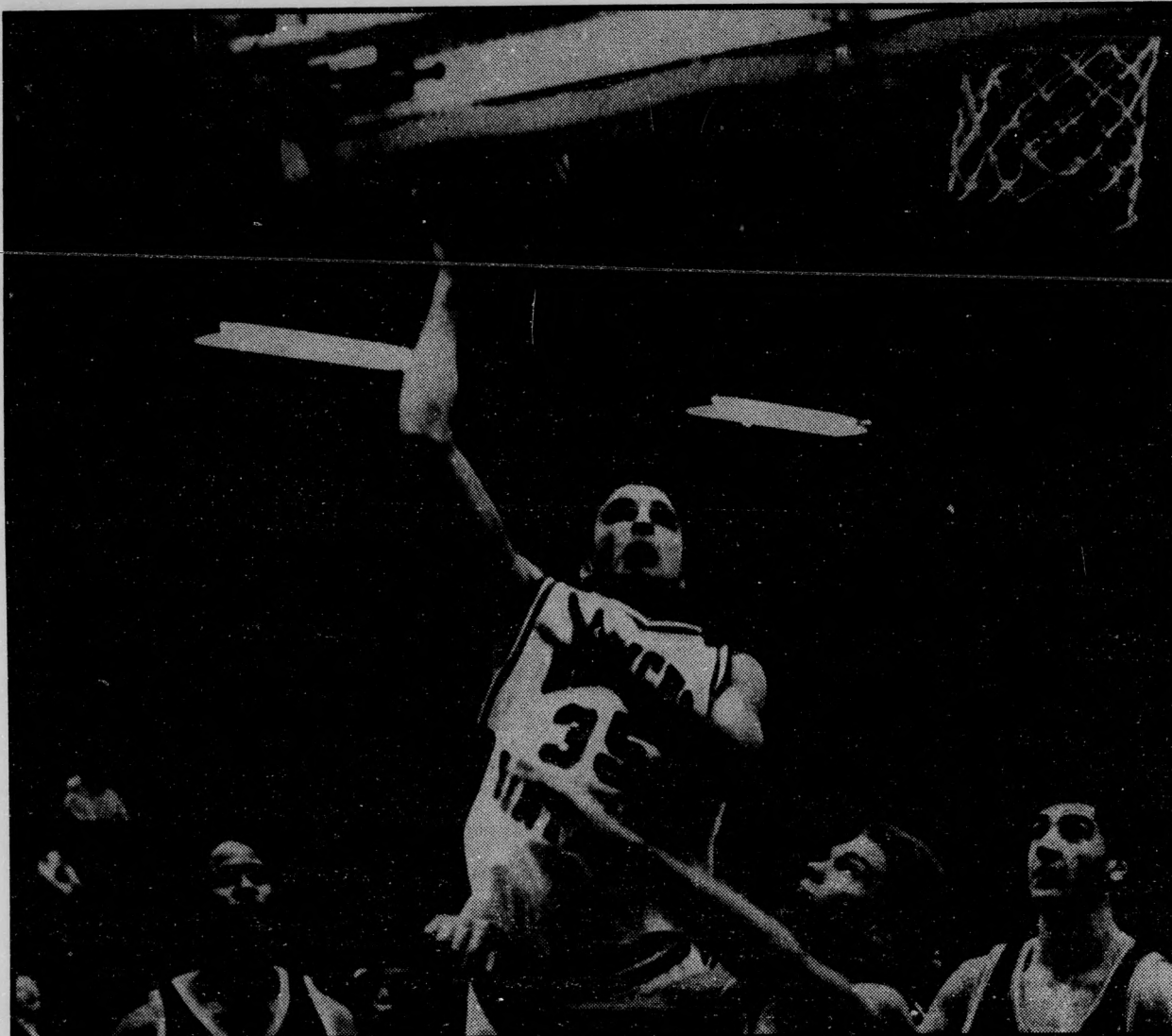
More than two minutes passed before any scoring began. Then Jermain Moore, RSC freshman, opened up the middle by hitting a three pointer. That shot let the Rustlers know they would have to play defensively.

Tough defense was the one thing the Rustlers could not afford to play. With only seven players, one player did not play until the final 35 seconds after the Rustlers' second player fouled out.

Although the Dons had an aggressive and balanced attack, they still had all they could handle from the Rustlers' 6-foot-4 inch Rod Scheuerman. He single handedly kept the Rustlers in the ball game. By the end of the first-half Scheuerman had 12 points and the Rustlers were down three points 39-36.

When the second-half began the Dons had not taken advantage of their out manned opponents. None of the Rustlers were in foul trouble and they continued to hang close.

The outstanding play from the Dons' LaByron Clayton, last year's



Armando Mugica / el Don Photo

Guard Raymond Alliman towered over Golden West Friday, Jan. 26, when the Dons defeated the Rustlers, 79-64.

team captain and Most Valuable Player at Katella High School, made all the difference. He led the Dons in scoring 20 points. When Clayton got hot, the Rustlers were forced to play him close. That was just what the Dons wanted.

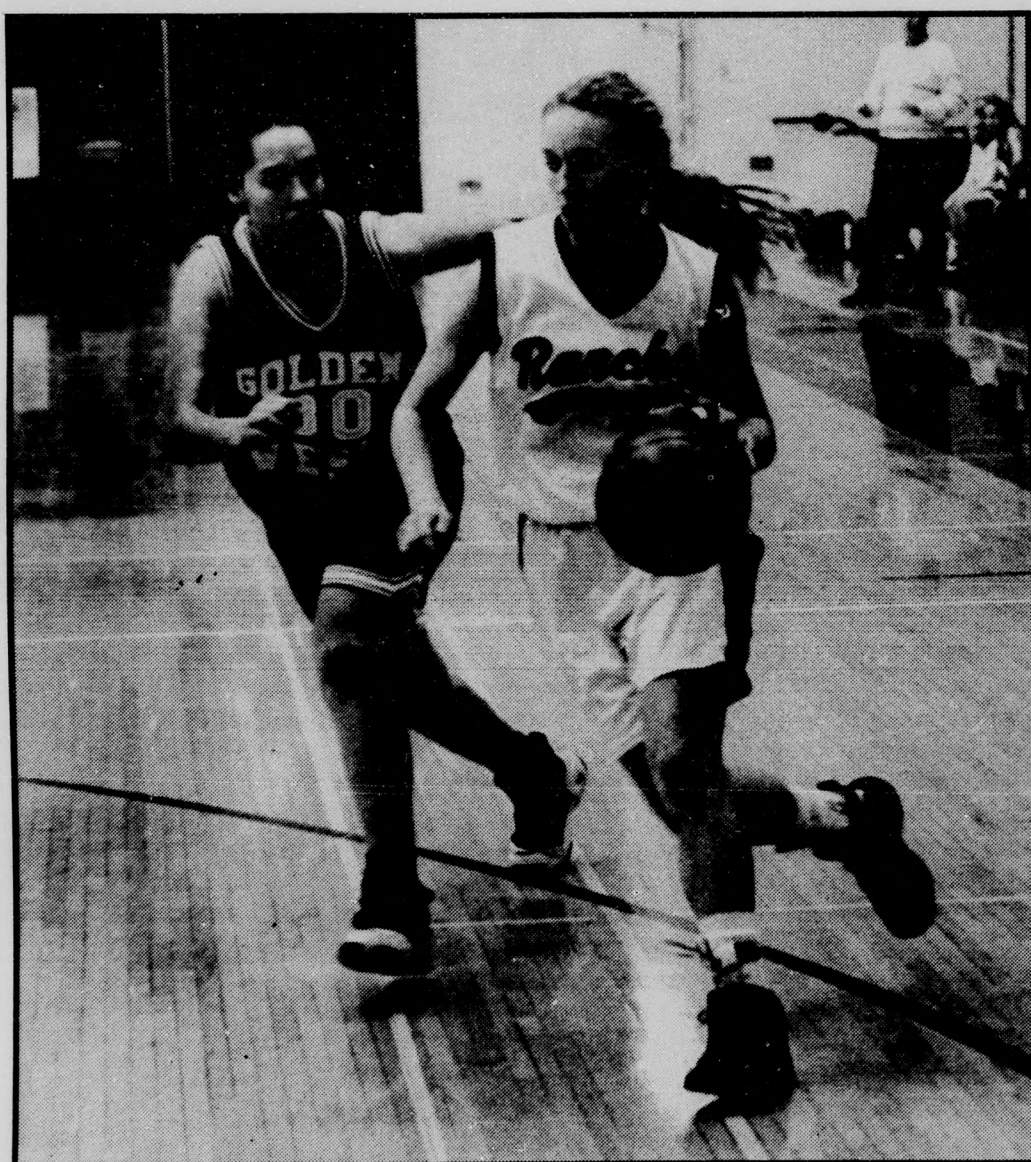
Then Todd Wilson, RSC sophomore, stepped up. He sat out 10

games last year with a broken hand, but he is back and playing well this season. Wilson contributed 16 points in the Dons' triumph.

Scheuerman picked up his fourth personal foul at the 10:51 mark of the second-half and was taken out of the game. At that point the Dons put the game away.

Scheuerman returned after three minutes, but fouled-out with 2:30 left in the game; 24 points and 10 rebounds.

"We are finally coming together as a team," Wilson said. "Now we look for the open-man and pass the ball around instead of focusing on one particular person."



Armando Mugica/el Don Photo

Lady Don Cari Rimmel, captain, races for the basket against Golden West.

Rustlers romp over Lady Dons 68-58

Ladies lose first-half lead when Golden West's defense comes alive

By Cliff Mason
el Don Assistant Sports Editor

The Lady Dons lost 68-58 to the Golden West Rustlers, Friday, in their eighth Orange Empire Conference game. What appeared to be a beautiful first-half for the Dons turned ugly late in the second, as their chariot turned into a pumpkin.

At the midpoint of the first-half, the Dons enjoyed a 23-9 lead. They moved the ball well and took only high percentage shots.

Karla Domenguez, RSC Freshman from Estancia High School, drove the length of the court for an easy lay-up over the Rustlers' big 6-foot-5 inch center, Blythe Linsey, who towered over all the other players. It appeared as though the Dons were on their way to their first conference victory.

However, that lead began to crumble as the Rustlers' defense started to come together. The Dons lead was down to only five points at the half.

The score was 34-29 and the Rustlers were beginning to get hot. Their scoring was spread evenly among their starters and their

highest scorer, Nicole Wiora, had just seven points. Cari Rimmel, the Dons' captain, led all scoring at the half with 14 points. Her teammate, Aidee Pacheco, had six points and seven rebounds to lead in rebounding.

Although the Dons seemed to be dominating on every angle, the second-half proved to be different.

Golden West's relentless defense began to wear down the Dons. Domenguez was hitting from the outside, but it was not enough to stop the onslaught of the Rustlers.

The Dons lost Rimmel to five personal fouls which hurt their inside scoring. Then the Rustlers went on a scoring attack of their own.

"We don't have enough players to remain competitive for an entire game," said Domenguez. "We lost a lot of good players in the beginning of the season and it's really hurting us now."

The Lady Dons scored only 20 points in the second half. After two three-pointers in a row by the Rustlers' Carla Huttenhoff, Golden West went on to score the last 16 points of the ball game.